

9/24/03

Kansas City Star Request of Governor Musgrove as Vice Chair of NGA

DeAnne Smith, 816-234-4412

Deadline – Thursday, 9/25/03

Request for interview by phone with Governor Musgrove or info through LAM. I need to let her know today.

Question: As Vice Chair of NGA, what changes, if any, are required under NCLB? If no changes, why not, and if changes, what are they and who should make those changes?

She has interviewed someone from the National School Board Association, head of Chief State School Officers, Members of Congress from MO and KS, and has an interview set up with Gov. Kempthorne.

Changes to NCLB – As per Kelly Riley:

1. Full funding for testing procedures or implementation of the ACT – would require Congressional Appropriation – Gov. Musgrove has been consistent with this message.
2. Full funding for IDEA. With NCLB, special education students are held accountable – Gov. Musgrove has been consistent with full funding of IDEA.
3. NGA is hosting a conference call to discuss the above-mentioned requirement for special education students to meet AYP – Spec Ed students are educated individually in accordance with their Individual Education Plans (IEP) at their personal levels, but NCLB is requiring that they be tested at grade level and assessed towards their school's meeting AYP just like any other student – it is highly unlikely that spec ed students will attain the gains in proficiency required for meeting AYP each year – NGA is discussing this “problem” and determining if formal position/statement needs to be developed (For this not to apply, Congress would have to amend NCLB statute)
4. As Governor, it is critical that we fully fund IDEA and NCLB.